Message Text

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R 180007Z OCT 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, PK

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT

FOR BYROADE FROM ATHERTON

REF: ISLAMABAD 9461

- 1. WE APPRECIATE SPECIAL SITUATION OF PAKISTAN OUTLINED REFTEL AND NEED MAINTAIN WHEAT IMPORT PIPELINE. HOWEVER, AS EXPLAINED BELOW, WE FORESEE A POSSIBLY EXTENDED DELAY IN GETTING FINAL APPROVALS FOR REMAINDER OF FY 76 PROGRAM.
- 2. WHOLE TITLE I PROGRAM FOR REMAINDER FY 76 IS UNDER CURRENT REVIEW. INTERNAL STATE/AID APPROVAL TO SEEK DOLS 209 MILLION BUDGET INCREASE WAS OBTAINED LAST WEEK. HOWEVER, OMB AND OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGREEMENT MUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STILL BE SOUGHT, AND THIS PROCESS WILL RESULT IN SOME

ADDITIONAL DELAY AND UNCERTAINTY. EXPANDED PROGRAM TENTATIVELY INCLUDES ADDITIONAL 300,000 TONS OF WHEAT (OR 600,000 TONS TOTAL IN FY 76) AND 30,000 TONS OF VEGOIL FOR PAKISTAN. THIS INCREASE, IF REALIZED, WOULD REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OVER CP LEVELS; ADDITIONAL VEGOIL IS

ABOUT EQUAL IN VALUE TO 100,000 TONS OF WHEAT, AND THIS WOULD FACILITATE GOP'S COMMERCIAL PURCHASE OF OUTSTANDING WHEAT NEEDS.

- 3. I SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT INFO CONTAINED PARA 2 IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE PASSED TO GOP AT THIS TIME. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW PROMISES TO BE DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN STRONG COMMITMENT AGAINST BUDGET INCREASES. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO DEFEND POSITION OUTLINED ABOVE, BUT FINAL OUTCOME NOT CERTAIN.
- 4. SINCE ALL REMAINING FY 76 ALLOCATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THIS GLOBAL PACKAGE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROCEED WITH ANY COUNTRY'S PORTION UNTIL FULL USG-WIDE APPROVAL OF WHOLE PROGRAM IS OBTAINED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOP HAS NOT TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF DOLS 20 MILLION CCC CREDIT FOR WHEAT ARRANGED LAST SUMMER. THIS WHEAT (ABOUT 130,000 TONS AT PRESENT PRICES) WOULD, IF PURCHASED SOON, RESOLVE THE PIPELINE PROBLEM FORESEEN IN REFTEL. MOREOVER, SINCE CCC'S REQUESTED BUDGET INCREASE MAY BE APPROVED SHORTLY (THOUGH NOT FOR WHEAT OR FEEDGRAIN), GOP COULD EASE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PRESSURE (ISLAMABAD 9394) BY SEEKING CCC CREDIT FOR ADDITIONAL VEGOIL. WE HOPE YOU WILL SUGGEST THESE INTERIM MEASURES TO THE PAKISTANIS, INDICATING THAT INTRA-USG CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL TITLE I ALLOCATIONS IS PROCEEDING QUICKLY. INGERSOLL

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